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## Cramer Assails 'Kennedy's Cuba Conscience Fund'

By the Associated Press

Representative Cramer, Republican of Florida, charged yesterday that President Kennedy is encouraging a "blackmail deal" to free Cuban invasion prisoners while ignoring Americans held captive in Communist jails.

"Where's our compassion for our own citizens being held by the Communists throughout the world?" Mr. Cramer asked in a statement.

He said money, food and medicine being collected to exchange for prisoners of the abortive Bay of Pigs invasion should be called the "Kennedy conscience fund."

"The whole philosophy of this blackmail deal is to apologize for the invasion failure," Mr. Cramer said.

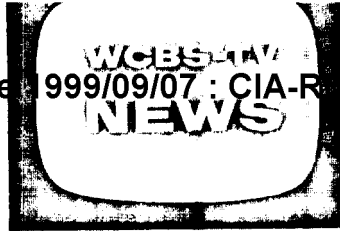
"Our attitude about Cuban prisoners is that we must give in to (Cuban Premier Fidel) Castro's ransom and indemnity demands and provide him with much-needed dollars, footstuffs and medicine—all of which he can trade off for more war material to be used against us."

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"NEWSMAKERS"

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1962  
12:00 Noon - 12:30 P.M.

**Program Transcript**

**GUEST: JAMES B. DONOVAN, DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE FOR THE U.S. SENATE**

**Reporters: Robert Poteete, Day City Editor, New York Herald Tribune**

**Oliver Pilat, Political Editor, New York Post**

**Dallas Townsend, CBS News Correspondent**

**Presented by**

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ANNOUNCER: "Newsmakers" featuring this week's man in the news, questioned by a team of reporters, covering a major New York story. Today's "Newsmaker" James B. Donovan, chief negotiator for the release of the Cuba-invasion prisoners and New York Democratic candidate for the United States Senate.

Background on the news in the making: Last night at Idlewild, upon his return from Miami, James Donovan was questioned by CBS News Reporter Kevin Delaney.

REPORTER DELANEY: Mr. Donovan, it's been reported that you will withdraw from the Senate race. Is there any truth to that?

MR. DONOVAN: There's absolutely no basis for this and, as a matter of fact, I've returned to embark upon a complete campaign between now and election, which I don't think in any way will interfere with my efforts on behalf of the Cuban Families' Committee. I expect before I'm through to make my position known on every major issue in this campaign, have it really known to every voter in New York State, and I think this can be done without, as I said, eating pizza pies and blintzes down on Coney Island boardwalk.

ANNOUNCER: What are Mr. Donovan's major views on the New York senatorial campaign? What are the prospects at this moment for the release of the Cuban invasion prisoners? Those are some of the questions facing James B. Donovan on this edition of "Newsmakers."

Our team of reporters: Oliver Pilat, Political Editor of the New York Post; Robert A. Poteete, Day City Editor of the New York Herald Tribune; and CBS News Correspondent Dallas Townsend. For the first question, Mr. Townsend.

MR. TOWNSEND: Mr. Donovan, when you came back to New York last night you said you expected to wage a full campaign between now and election and to make your position known on every major issue facing the people of New York. I wonder if you could tell us what is one of these major issues.

MR. DONOVAN: Well, I think that actually every one of the specific issues resolves itself into one major issue, which is the overwhelming issue in the campaign, and that is that with a majority of Democrats registered in the

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State of New York, the fact remains at the present time we have only Republican United States senators from the State of New York. Now, in my opinion, the State of New York is entitled, with a Democratic President and with a Democratic Congress -- is entitled to representation in the United States Senate by a Democratic senator. And so, too, I believe that President Kennedy is entitled to the support of a senator from his own party, who can work with him to accomplish his programs in the critical periods that lie ahead -- and all other issues, in my judgment, resolve themselves into these.

Senator Javits, on the other hand, upstate, is being paraded as a Republican who signed the Republican Manifesto and, of course, is regarded as the Republican candidate, which he is. On the other hand, in New York City, Senator Javits describes himself as more liberal than President Kennedy and so on. In my opinion, this doesn't make for effective representation in the United States Senate on behalf of this state. You can't go both ways on these problems. I think that the medicare issue is a perfect illustration of what I'm talking about. And, in short, the major issue that I see is that this state is entitled to be represented in the United States Senate by a Democratic senator when we have a Democratic Administration in Washington, and I think also that President Kennedy is entitled to the support of a senator from his own party in the critical period that lies ahead.

MR. POTEETE: Mr. Donovan, on a more local issue, your running mate, Mr. Morgenthau, says that Governor Rockefeller will raise taxes or impose a sales tax if he's re-elected. Your running mate, Comptroller Levitt, who ought to know says that he hesitates to speculate on this subject. Would you tell us which side you're on?

MR. DONOVAN: Well, I have no information as to Governor Rockefeller's plans in this respect and, on the other hand, I'm sure that Bob Morgenthau, who's a man of ability and integrity, wouldn't make the statement unless he had some reasonable basis for it. Personally I have no information on that subject and, of course,

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it is not an issue that is really germane to my campaign for the United States Senate.

MR. PILAT: Mr. Donovan, I heard you at Syracuse on federal aid to parochial schools and I got the vague impression that you were for steps going somewhat farther than President Kennedy's program, but you didn't spell it out. Is there any way you can now spell out -- this is a major issue in this state -- spell out the issue on federal aid to private schools in education?

MR. DONOVAN: Yes. In the first place, I think that federal aid is required to do the proper educational job in the United States and to keep us ahead of Soviet Russia in the period that's ahead. Beyond that, I believe that every effort should be made within the constitution and without in any way infringing on the prohibition against the establishment of any religion, which all of us, Catholics and otherwise, all of us, share as a very definite part of the American way of life.

Now, without infringing on the constitutional prohibition, nevertheless, I think that every step should be taken to try on an aid-to-children basis rather than talk in terms of aid to school -- an aid-to-children basis, every effort should be made to aid every child in the United States to obtain the best possible education. I don't think that we can afford to do otherwise than to bring all our resources to bear on all the children. Now, within the framework of the constitution there are many ways in which this can be accomplished, in my opinion. Prior to his leaving the President's cabinet and after the President's original statement, Governor Ribicoff, I thought, was exploring many very sound avenues to effect a possible adjustment of views in this matter, so that, on the one hand, it would not be in any manner aid to religion as such but, on the other hand, it would enable us to bring to bear all our resources for educating all our children.

I think this can be done. And as to just what is constitutional, this is a question -- after all I realize that President Kennedy explained what was constitutional and what wasn't -- all I'll say is that if he knows what is con-

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stitutional, he's the first President of the United States who ever did before the nine men on that bench speak. Any lawyer who has argued before the Supreme Court knows that until the nine do speak on a specific issue, it's very difficult to say what is constitutional and what is not.

But, in my opinion, we can, without any fear of encroaching on the constitutional prohibition -- we can take definite steps that would enable us to aid not only the children in the public schools but other children whose parents exercise their constitutional right to have their children educated as they wish.

MR. PILAT: Let me follow it up just a little bit. District Attorney O'Connor, who was a candidate at one time for the Democratic nomination for governor, wanted -- as a procedural matter, suggested that Congress pass two bills, one for federal aid to public schools and one for federal aid to private schools and that the second of the two bills then go to the constitution for a ruling. Meanwhile, the public-school kids would not be deprived of their help. How do you feel about that idea specifically?

MR. DONOVAN: Well, it's one thought, but I---

MR. PILAT: There are many one thoughts. But what I'm trying to do, sir, is to get you -- I got the impression in Syracuse and I get the impression now that you want to go farther than President Kennedy. What I am trying to find out is just how much farther and in what specific directions?

MR. DONOVAN: I am explaining that I would like to explore exactly what Governor Ribicoff was exploring when he left the President's cabinet. You will find that a series of studies were made after the President's original statement in an effort to see what could be done constitutionally. I'm saying I'm for every one of these steps. These can include things such as tax credits. They can include low-interest loans of various forms, and I think there are very many approaches. I'm just saying that every one of them, in my judgment, I'm in back of because I don't think we can afford at the present time, with the enormous educational effort that is being made in Soviet Russia and Red China -- we can't afford this kind of nonsense.

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MR. PILAT: How do you feel about O'Connor's ideas?

MR. DONOVAN: --- furthermore, in my judgment, a good number of these issues have been grossly exaggerated and distorted in the last few years. They have been taken out of all perspective. Now, I will take my own case as a simple example. I went to a private Catholic school in New York city. We took New York State Regents' examinations. I never heard that supplying a Regents' examination to us and enabling us to compete with the other children that in some fashion this was an aid to a denominational school. I then won a New York State scholarship, competing with the boys --- I lived in the Bronx so I competed with the boys from Evander Childs, Dewitt Clinton, and the other schools, and I won a New York State scholarship.

Now, I elected to go to Fordham College. Throughout my entire career in Fordham College the State of New York paid that scholarship and I never heard anybody question -- that's 25 years ago, and I never heard anybody question it as some grave threat to everybody's religious freedom. I think there is a lot of this that has been distorted out of context.

MR. PILAT: Will you, sir --- let me ask you to answer in one sentence and then I will leave the question alone entirely. How do you feel about O'Connor's suggestions?

MR. DONOVAN: I think it is not the best approach to the problem. I think that this can be done more effectively and I again say that Governor Ribicoff, in my opinion, was going exactly on the right course when he left the President's Cabinet.

MR. TOWNSEND: Mr. Donovan, which has priority, as far as you are concerned, negotiating for the release of the Cuban invasion prisoners, or running for the U. S. Senate in New York State?

MR. DONOVAN: Well, there is absolutely no question on this. The highest priority has to be my commitment to the Cuban situation because it involves human lives and it is far more important than anything else. Now,

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while we are on that subject I would like to make something perfectly clear. This is a public commitment that I undertook on behalf of a non-partisan committee of very distinguished Americans who are Republicans, Democrats and of all faiths and I undertook this last Spring long before this entire political situation developed. I think of this as nothing more or less than the fact that, for example, I am also Vice President of the Board of Education in the City of New York and it so happens I have to devote a certain amount of time to this very day to my duties as Vice President of the Board of Education but the fact that I am rendering public service, I don't feel in any way impinges on the campaign. I would hope that the work that I am doing down there doesn't become a matter of partisan politics. The timing of it was not of my choosing but it is a basic commitment which has to take precedence over any political consideration and it was with that understanding that I accepted the nomination for the United States Senate.

MR. TOWNSEND: Well, Mr. Donovan, the campaign is now half over. You have about three weeks to go before election day. Do you feel it is possible for you to wage a full campaign and bring the people up to date on the issues between now and November 6th?

MR. DONOVAN: Well, of course. I think the old fashioned concepts of campaigns -- just as though we were campaigning today, and it was in the 1880's and the whole question is how many picnics you can get to and how many meetings of how many lodges and so on -- I don't think this is so. So far as I am concerned, I started the campaign for the United States Senate about 20 years ago and as far as I know the people of this state know my record. I'm not in a position where suddenly someone says, "Who is he?" or something. They know my record and I have been in the city all my life. I've taken positions on all kinds of subjects. I've worked in the international field for 20 years. During World War II, one of our assigned tasks in OSS was to deal with the under-

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over in London, at one point living with Peter of Yugoslavia on one side and Michael of Roumania on the other, and, in short, this is nothing new. At times when I read the newspapers it does seem that the only thing I have done in my life was that I walked out on Glienecker Bridge last Spring and exchanged Abel for two Americans. Well, that just isn't so. I was General Counsel at two federal agencies almost 20 years ago.

MR. TOWNSEND: Well, as a matter of practical fact, Mr. Donovan, don't you believe that most people in New York State do know you best for your connection with the Abel exchange and also with the Cuban prisoners' talk?

MR. DONOVAN : Well, that's true, I think they know President Kennedy best as the President of the United States, but that doesn't mean that he didn't do a lot of things before he was President of the United States.

MR. POTEETE: He also traveled. Are you planning to campaign any upstate?

MR. DONOVAN: Oh, yes, but I would also like to make something clear, because of the last 15 years, because of commitments I have with bar associations and also commitments in the insurance industry, I have patrolled the entire State of New York. I'd like to remind you of something. You know, I didn't carry New York County up at that convention. New York County didn't go to me. I was nominated by Oneida and seconded by Broome and these weren't pre-arranged nominations. Both Jim O'Shea from Rome and Don Kramer from Binghamton are just old friends and I have lectured in almost every county in the State of New York on a wide variety of subjects and this has gone on for 15 years and

I do intend to cover just as much of the state as I possibly can. I hope to borrow a plane. I don't have the half million dollars that I'm told Senator Javits has assembled for the campaign, and lacking the half million dollars, I nevertheless hope one way or the other to effectively cover the state. I think, for example, the little meeting that we are having here this morning, is far more effective than for me to spend this period of time going around shaking

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~~MR. PILAT: Let me be specific again. You were supposed to be the chief~~  
 speaker at an ADA convention yesterday. You didn't show up. The next thing, as far as I know, for which you have been advertised to attend -- and by the way your campaign headquarters had advertised your attendance at functions for the last two weeks steadily and you haven't showed up. The next one as far as I know is in Flushing on Monday night at a rally for the entire State ticket. Are you specifically going to go, or are you going to go somewhere else?

MR. DONOVAN: Well, I think you have been reading the wrong schedules. For your information ---

MR. PILAT: I get the press releases every day, sir.

MR. DONOVAN: Well, I am just explaining, for your information, I arrived at Idlewild Airport last night and immediately left for Rockland County where I spoke last night at New City, delivered the principal address.

MR. PILAT: Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't know that.

MR. DONOVAN: From there I came down to the Hotel Astor and attended a meeting of the New York State Trial Lawyers Association last night.

MR. PILAT: Are you going to be out at Flushing Monday night?

MR. DONOVAN: I expect to be at any one of these. From here I am going over to the Hotel Astor to be the principal speaker at a luncheon of the Key Club, which is an organization of negro women devoted to educational work and with whom I have worked in the past on educational matters. From there I am going out to the fair, out in Westbury, to meet John English, John Nickerson and so on and have a wide variety of other things. So, as to whether I am in Flushing on Monday night, I expect I'll be there. I am in the hands of some very capable people who wheel me around as best they can but I'm, in my opinion --- as a question of timing, I think that my timing should be about right on this. I think the idea that every day out comes another sad statement by me on some tired issue or the other and somebody tries to make a new story out of it, I don't think ---

I think people are sick of that kind of campaigning over and over  
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MR. POTEETE: Well, how do you intend to meet this criticism that was expressed at the ADA by the chairman, Kenneth Wentworth, who said that you were an unknown before your nomination, and said that you had failed to speak out on the issues of the day? Do you intend to issue formal statements? Do you intend to develop them as you go around the state? How do you intend to get them across?

MR. DONOVAN: No. If I could make a suggestion, we might more profitably devote our time right now to this very thing instead of talking about why I don't do it.

MR. PILAT: Right. Let me ask you one ---

MR. DONOVAN: Ask me my opinion on any one of these issues.

MR. PILAT: Let me ask you one fast in the area you know best. Mr. Javits has said two things on Cuba: 1. That there should be a deadline for hemospheric action before we take unilateral action. 2. That there should be several steps considered before "resort to the final and dangerous medicine."

How do you characterize those two ideas -- proposals?

MR. DONOVAN: Well, I think that those statements, with which, frankly, I wasn't familiar, are a very good illustration of my primary point. I think that this kind of talk is dangerous talk. I don't think it's constructive criticism. Senator Javits has now been consistently attacking the President personally for his lack of leadership, and I think that during a period like this in which I happen to think that President Kennedy is pursuing a very wise course of action at the present time with respect to Cuba -- the whole of Latin America is involved, and I think that President Kennedy has shown admirable restraint. These are very trying times, and we're all inclined to make these statements about sending in 20,000 Marines, but this is an over-simplification of the problem. I think President Kennedy is handling this thing magnificently, and I think that this, again, is a perfect illustration of why he's entitled to have a Senator from the State of New York who can firmly support him and guide him and assist him in any of the matters

MR. POTEETE: What do you see as the eventual outcome in Cuba, aside from

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the prisoner liberation?

MR. DONOVAN: Well, I think this is very difficult to prophesy at the present time.

MR. POTEETE: Well, within the context of the situation as it is, do you see anything developing that would provide an out or a solution?

MR. DONOVAN: Well, of course, in my opinion, we have a deep moral obligation to these prisoners, and it would be my hope that if, on honorable terms -- which I believe is possible to accomplish that -- if on honorable terms their release can be secured, perhaps this can be a first step toward something that would prevent a general holocaust. Certainly, I think, we've made many mistakes in the past with respect to Cuba. I don't think this is -- is a matter of the Kennedy Administration. I think our mistakes in Cuba go back to the Platt Amendment and throughout many, many sessions, anything that you read on the background of the Cuban problem, would show that the United States has simply not behaved very intelligently on very many of the problems over in Cuba.

MR. TOWNSEND: Mr. Donovan, you've indicated that you're optimistic about the release of the Cuban prisoners. If it appears to you that the negotiations are going to be successful, would it be possible for you to turn your role in them over to someone else so that you could concentrate on the senatorial campaign?

MR. DONOVAN: Well, I've given, actually, a great deal of consideration to that. I'm afraid it isn't possible. At the moment, it's been a personal undertaking. I'm the only American that goes in down there, and I've now been working with Castro and the men around him, and, well, I'm here anyway, and I am afraid that it is a personal relationship that if I did pull out, or appear in any way to subordinate that objective to political ambitions, I am afraid that I could be justly criticized by not only all the Cuban families -- and, as you know, there are now several hundred thousand in the United States, and who are looking to me for support, and I believe that I have to and am obligated to and will give it my every personal effort.

MR. TOWNSEND: You feel, then, that if you did withdraw from the negoti-

ations, it would jeopardize their success?

MR. DONOVAN: I'm afraid that that is true. This is not a diplomatic mission as such in which you can just put a new face in. This is what's been called metadiplomacy, a new word that's been coined, but just as you have physics and metaphysics, or higher physics, I am told that I have been engaged in metadiplomacy. But it's a very personal thing, in other words, and I'm afraid that it is non-delegable.

MR. TOWNSEND: Are you representing the United States Government in any way, Mr. Donovan, in these talks?

MR. DONOVAN: Absolutely no way. I would be totally unauthorized to do it, and it was made clear to Premier Castro the first day that I arrived that the entire area of the foreign policy of the United States is completely beyond my scope. This is a private, humanitarian endeavor. The government did grant a tax-exempt status to the organization, as you may know, so that the gifts to it are tax deductible. They also have publicly -- not only the State Department, but the President -- have publicly declared their sympathy with the objectives of the committee. But beyond this, this is a private, humanitarian endeavor, and my objective there is that very limited one of seeking the release of those men. It does not in any manner involve me in the foreign policy of the United States.

MR. POTEETE: You have discussed the negotiations with the President; have you not?

MR. DONOVAN: No, I have not.

MR. POTEETE: No? With the Attorney-General?

MR. DONOVAN: I have kept the government fully informed of every step in the entire negotiation. I believe that's my obligation as a United States citizen. This has meant communicating on any legal aspects of it to the Department of Justice; on any aspects that appeared to be in the realm of international affairs to the State Department, but this is these are ordinary reports that are submitted by, and are regarded as the obligation of any private committee that's working

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toward a purpose of this kind.

MR. PILAT: Mr. Donovan, the figure of \$62 million has been used for these 1,133 prisoners and I am a little confused, and maybe the public is, too. What does this \$62 million stand for?

MR. DONOVAN: The sixty-two million---

MR. PILAT: Cash?

MR. DONOVAN: The \$62 million was a cash sentence imposed by the tribunals which tried these men in Cuba. It's the aggregate total of the sentences that were imposed on these men. That is where the figure of \$62 million comes from, and as you may know, what I've been seeking to accomplish is not only to remove cash from the entire negotiation, which has been accomplished---

MR. PILAT: Oh, you have!

MR. DONOVAN: There won't be one dollar cash involved in anything that I'm handling. That I want to make clear. And instead of farm machinery, and various other things that, as you know, have been discussed in the past at the time of the Tractors for Freedom Committee and so on, Premier Castro and I have now been talking purely -- purely on the basis of drugs, medicines, baby food, and medical supplies.

MR. TOWNSEND: Mr. Donovan, I am very sorry, I'm afraid our time has expired, and I will have to say thank you, very much, for being here, and our thanks also to today's panelists, Mr. Oliver Pilat, Political Editor of the New York Post, and Robert A. Poteete, Day City Editor of the New York Herald Tribune. This is Dallas Townsend of CBS News. Good afternoon.